

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 11-14 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 11-14.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 13-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 15-17 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-12 and 16-18 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings asserting that reference numeral 44 in Fig. 25 is not mentioned in the description. To obviate this objection, the specification at paragraph [0083] is amended to recite "in insulating layers 44 and 48 formed in the inner gap."

The Office Action objects to Figs. 11-14 asserting that the reference numeral 22 is missing a lead line. To obviate this objection, Figs. 11-14 are amended so that the reference numeral 22 has a lead line drawn to connect the magnetic domain controlling layer.

The Office Action objects to the title asserting that the current title is not descriptive. To obviate this objection, the title is amended to recite "Magnetoresistive Effective Element With High Output Stability and Reduced Read Bleeding at Track Edges."

The Office Action objects to various informalities in the specification. To obviate these objections, the specification and claims 13 and 17 are amended according to the phrases and terms suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the title, drawings, specification and claims 13 and 17 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These claims are amended to address the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dill (U.S. Patent No. 5,898,548); and rejects claims 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as

being anticipated by Hayashi (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0008016). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Specifically, Dill and Hayashi, individually fail to disclose or suggest a magnetoresistive effective element including magnetic domain controlling layers that surround and extend along both sides of the magnetoresistive effective film, as recited in independent claim 13.

Dill, at Figs. 4A and 4B, col. 5, lines 25-31, merely discloses a shielded magnetic tunnel junction magnetoresistive read head that has a biasing ferromagnetic layer (150), which has its magnetic moment (151) aligned in the same direction as the magnetic moment of the ferromagnetic layer (132). The biasing ferromagnetic layers (150) are arranged on both sides of the magnetoresistive read heads. Dill, however, fails to disclose any particular shape or arrangements at the biasing ferromagnetic layers, other than a rectangular shape.

Hayashi, at Fig. 8 and paragraphs [0001] - [0055], merely discloses a vertical bias layer (9) on both sides of the magnetoresistive effect film (20). An insulator (11) is formed around the magnetoresistive effect film pattern and then the vertical bias pattern (9) is formed over the magnetoresistive effect film pattern. Hayashi merely discloses that the vertical bias pattern (9) is formed beside the magnetoresistive effect film (20) as a layer, as opposed to a rectangular portion as disclosed in Dill.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Dill and Hayashi individually fail to disclose or suggest the magnetoresistive effective element including magnetic domain controlling layers that surround and extend along both sides of the magnetoresistive effective film, as recited in independent claim 13.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 13 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 14-17 depend from claim 13

and therefore, also define patentable subject matter as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 13-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Thomas J. Pardini
Registration No. 30,411

JAO:EXC/jls

Attachment:

Replacement Drawing Sheets (Figs. 11-14)

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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